Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Original)** Apparatus for use in the laying of elongate articles from a vessel, which apparatus includes a tower, tensioning means supported on the tower for paying out the elongate articles under laying tension, and a hold-off clamp, wherein the hold-off clamp is mounted independently of the tower on a trolley which can be moved into and out of alignment with the laying axis of the tower while supporting the elongate article under laying tension.

2. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the trolley comprises at least one beam arranged to run on rails and which spans the laying axis so as to move the hold-off clamp in a direction traverse to the length of said beam.

3. **(Original)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein the vessel is provided with two outriggers which extend in parallel relationship and are spaced either side of the laying axis to define a working space between them, the trolley comprising a beam which extends between two rails, one rail provided along each of the two outriggers.

4. **(Previously Presented)** Apparatus as claimed in any one of preceding claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the trolley is further provided with a platform or work area..

5. **(Previously Presented)** Apparatus as claimed in any one of preceding claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the hold-off claims is moveable in two dimensions toward and away from the laying axis.

6. **(Original)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the claim is operable to at least one side of the lay axis and at least one of forward and aft of the lay axis.

7. **(Previously Presented)** Apparatus as claimed in any one of preceding claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein a radius controller is located at an upper end of the main tower for supporting a continuous elongate article being diverted into said tensioning means.

8. **(Previously Presented)** Apparatus as claimed in any one of preceding claims 1, 2 or 3 further comprising an Aabandonment and Rrecovery (A&R) crane arranged for use in the positioning of bulky loads within range of the hold off clamp.

9. **(Original)** A method of laying an elongate article from a vessel which includes a tower having a radius controller at its upper end and tensioning means on the tower for paying out said elongate article under tension, and a hold-off clamp mounted on a trolley at the foot of the tower for movement in and out of the laying axis of the ramp or tower, the method including fitting a connection module to the elongate article being laid by:

(a) positioning the hold-off clamp out of alignment with the laying axis of the ramp or tower;

(b) locating and securing a connection in the hold-off clamp so that at least a connecting piece of the connection extends above the hold-off clamp;

(c) positioning the hold-off clamp and connection in line with the laying axis of the tower;

(d) fixing the connection to the elongate article being laid; and

(e) disengaging the hold-off clamp such that the weight of the connection module is supported by the elongate article.

10. **(Original)** A method of laying an elongate article from a vessel which includes a tower having a radius controller at its upper end, and tensioning means on the tower for paying out said elongate article under tension, and a hold-off clamp mounted on a trolley at the foot of the tower for movement in and out of the laying axis of the tower, the method including fitting a connection to the elongate article being laid by:

(a) positioning the hold-off clamp and securing it about the elongate article being laid, the elongate article ending (or being cut) at a position above the hold-off clamp so that the hold-off clamp supports the load of laid elongate article;

(b) moving the hold-off clamp supporting the article out of alignment with the laying axis of the ramp or tower;

(c) positioning a connection module above the hold-off clamp;

(d) fixing the connection module to the end of the elongate article; and

(e) supporting the laid article and disengaging the hold-off clamp.

11. **(Original)** A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the connection fitted to the elongate article is a tail end fitting and the method includes the further step of deploying the end of the elongate article to the seabed.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the connection fitted to the elongate article is a mid-line connection and the method includes ~~may include~~ the further steps of:

(f) positioning the connection module in the hold-off clamp so that at least a connecting piece extends above the hold-off clamp;

(g) moving the hold-off clamp under the ramp so that it is in line with the laying axis of the tower;

(h) fixing the connecting piece to the elongate article suspended in the tower; and

(i) disengaging the hold-off clamp while paying out the elongate article via said tensioning means.

13. **(New)** The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said hold-off clamp is mounted on said beam via a further trolley so as to be moveable in a direction parallel to the length of the beam.